



PRESS RELEASE

May 12, 2014

CITY OF HOUSTON ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR SOUTHWEST AIRLINES® FREEDOM OVER TEXAS

*Mayor Annise Parker Invites Texans to Houston's Official Fourth of July Celebration
Featuring Live Music, Family Activities and a Stunning Fireworks Extravaganza*

Houston – Fireworks will ignite the sky, and country tunes will set the stage for Houston's signature annual patriotic celebration, **Southwest Airlines Freedom Over Texas** from 4 p.m. – 10 p.m. on Friday, July 4 at the newly renovated Eleanor Tinsley Park on Buffalo Bayou (along Allen Parkway). National country recording artist **Jennifer Nettles** will headline the annual event at one of her first solo performances that will culminate with a spectacular fireworks display.

"I believe it is our civic duty as Americans to stop and celebrate the birth of our nation and pay tribute to the men and women who have made great sacrifices so that we may live in freedom," said Mayor Annise D. Parker. "I invite everyone to join our Texas Tradition as we demonstrate the importance of honoring our country, respecting the values of our founding fathers, and instilling pride in our community."

The 28-year-old lively outdoor festival will feature star-spangled performances on the Freedom Stage by Grammy award-winning country music star Jennifer Nettles. Former lead vocalist for international country duo Sugarland, Nettles has become one of the most popular singer-songwriters in music today with eight Number 1 singles as well as numerous awards including trophies from the Grammys, AMAs, ACM Awards, CMT Music Awards and CMA Awards. Nettles has also won five ASCAP awards for her songwriting abilities and has individually received a Grammy Award, ACM Award and CMA Award for penning the emotionally charged, platinum-selling Number 1 hit "Stay."

Nettles recently stepped away from the award-winning Sugarland duo to recreate herself as a solo artist and is receiving rave reviews from fans on her recently released album titled, "That Girl."

This year's festivities include the **Southwest Airlines Sky Stage**, featuring vintage aircraft flyovers; the **Walmart All-American Kids Zone**, a children's entertainment area with a stage featuring entertainment for young and old, alike; **KBR Liberty Park** brings military assets such as tanks and helicopters to the event along with all five branches of the military; the **Bud Light Zone**, featuring the All-American Beer Garden and a fun in the sun good time; the **Dr Pepper One of a Kind Zone**, featuring Houston professional sport team set-ups, music, food, and a refreshing cooling area; and ending the evening with an exciting fireworks finale sponsored by **Nation Waste**.

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Sponsors include: **Title Sponsor:** Southwest Airlines®; **Anchor Sponsors:** Walmart, KBR, Bud Light, Dr Pepper, Nation Waste; **Official Radio Sponsor:** COX Media: The Eagle 106.9/107.5, The New 93Q, Country Legends 97.1; **Official Hotel Sponsor:** DoubleTree by Hilton Houston Downtown; **Official Newspaper Sponsor:** Houston Chronicle; **On-Site Booth Sponsors:** Sprint, McDonald's, Silverleaf Resorts, TDECU, Sweet Baby Ray's, Skinner Pasta; **In-Kind Sponsors:** Houston Astros, Houston Rockets, Houston Texans, METRO, **Community Partner:** Houston Food Bank; **Beneficiary:** Central Houston Civic Improvement, Inc.; **Producer:** City of Houston Mayor's Office of Special Events; **Television Partner:** ABC-13/KTRK-TV.

WHEN: **FRIDAY, JULY 4, 2014 from 4-10 p.m.**

WHERE: Sam Houston Park and Eleanor Tinsley Park on Buffalo Bayou (along Allen Parkway).

ADMISSION: \$5 per person before June 1 available online
\$8 per person June 1 – July 3 available online
\$10 per person day of show, online and at event
FREE children 5 and under

TICKETS/INFO: www.freedomovertexas.org

Southwest Airlines Freedom Over Texas will further expand the availability of recycling receptacles to make it easier for attendees to recycle. The City of Houston is committed to supporting green initiatives and promoting sustainability.

The Houston Parks & Recreation Department regulations prohibit dogs, amphibians, reptiles and snakes that are considered dangerous. Therefore, we require the ban of all such animals. This does not include Seeing Eye dogs or other dogs that provide assistance to physically challenged individuals.

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